

Message Text

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DRAFTTD BY: EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTHY

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT

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R 122050Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWIIG REPEAT THE HAGUE 2884 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CURACAO
GENEVA 10 JUN

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 2884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, NA

SUBJECT: GONA WITHDRAWAL OF GATT CONCESSIONS

REF: STATE A-4356

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED REFGAM WITH MINECON DIR FOR MULTI-LATERAL AFFAIRS VAN WIJK WHO CONFIRMS THAT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO GONA GATT BINDINGS REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED IN HAGUE 1144 OF MARCH 12, 1973. IN OTHER WORDS GONA IS IMPLEMEN- TING TWO-COLUMN TARIFF WITHOUT REGARD TO GATT BINDINGS TO UNITED STATES. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT TWO-COLUMN TARIFF APPLIED IN 1970 ENTAILS CHANGES WHICH DO NOT ON BALANCE CAUSE NET HARM TO US EXPORTS.

2. VAN WIJK POINTED OUT THAT GONA TARIFF, THOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED TO GATT, HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY CUSTOMS COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS WITHOUT FORMAL OBJECTION FROM ANY TRADING PARTNER AND
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THEREFORE HAS IN EFFECT BEEN SANCTIFIED BY BEING IGNORED. VAN

WIJK CONCEDES THAT GONA IS L"IVING IN SIN" BUT HAS BEEN GETTING AWAY WITH IT AND GON HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERVENING UNLESS SOME NEW SITUATION ARISES.

3. VAN WIJK WENT ON TO SAY THAT GONA DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TIJSSEN WAS IN THE HAGUE A FEW WEEKS AGO AND INTIMATED THAT GONA MIGHT SOON REVERT TO ONE-COLUMN TARIFF WITH POSSIBLY HIGHER RATES. ELIMINATION OF PREFERENCES FOR EEC WOULD BE IN RECOGNITION OF EVOLVING EEC ATTITUDE AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES. ACCORDING TO VAN WIJK TIJSSEN MADE NO REFERENCES TO GONA GATT BINDINGS AND APPARENTLY CONSIDERS THAT GONA IS NOT INHIBITED BY THEM.

4. WE MADE IT CLEAR TO VAN WIJK THAT WE RESERVE ALL OF OUR RIGHTS TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS WITH GON IN EVENT THAT GONA RAISES DUTIES BEYOND BOUND LEVELS.
TANGUY UNQUOTE SISCO

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